

Publication rates of abstracts presented at SHPA Medicines Management Conferences 2014-2019

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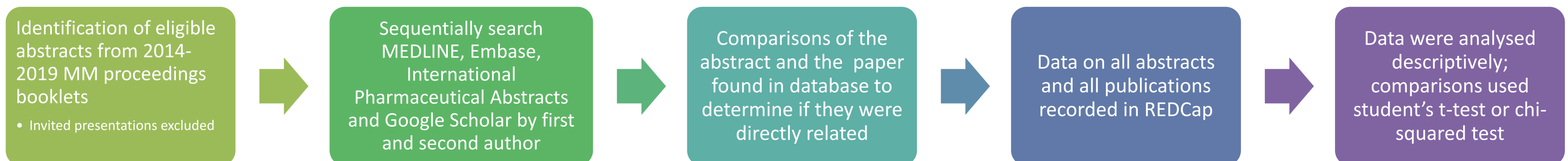
Background

Pharmacists are involved in a wide range of research activities. It is important to share the findings of these studies through both presentation at conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journals. A 2003 study reported that only 11.2% of presentations at the 24th Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Federal Conference in 1999 were published¹. The current rate of publications of abstracts presented at the SHPA annual conference Medicines Management (MM) is unknown.

Aim

To assess the publication rate of abstracts presented at SHPA National Conferences held between 2014-2019.

Methods



Results

In total, 1892 abstracts were eligible for inclusion. Of these, 464 (24.5%) were oral presentations and 1428 (75.5%) were poster presentations (Table 1).

A total of **301** of the **1892 (15.9%)** abstracts were identified as being published in peer reviewed journals. There were significant differences between the rates of publication for oral versus poster presentations and collaborative versus non-collaborative works (Table 1).

Abstracts	Number n (%)	Published n (%)	Significance
Oral	464 (24.5)	106 (22.8)	P < 0.0001
Poster	1428 (75.5)	195 (13.7)	
Collaborative	727 (38.4)	213 (29.3)	P < 0.0001
Non-collaborative	1165 (61.6)	88 (7.6)	
Hospital affiliation	1692 (89.4)	240 (14.2)	P < 0.0001
University affiliation	237 (12.5)	116 (48.9)	
2014	274 (14.5)	43 (15.7)	
2015	308 (16.3)	67 (21.8)	
2016	249 (13.2)	52 (20.9)	
2017	290 (15.3)	42 (14.5)	
2018	376 (19.9)	54 (14.4)	
2019	395 (19.9)	43 (10.9)	
Total	1892 (100.0)	301 (15.9)	

Table 1: Publication of oral and poster abstracts presented at the SHPA National Conference between 2014 to 2019

The average impact factor of the publishing journal and the median time to publication are presented in Figure 1 and 2, respectively. There was a statistically significant difference between the average impact factor (1.3 vs 2.4, p=0.01) from 2014 to 2019. The time from presentation to publication ranged from a median of 0.7 months (2019) to 10.6 months (2016). Overall 53 (17.6%) of the published works were published in SHPA's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Figure 1. Impact Factor of journals publishing SHPA conference presentations, 2014 to 2019

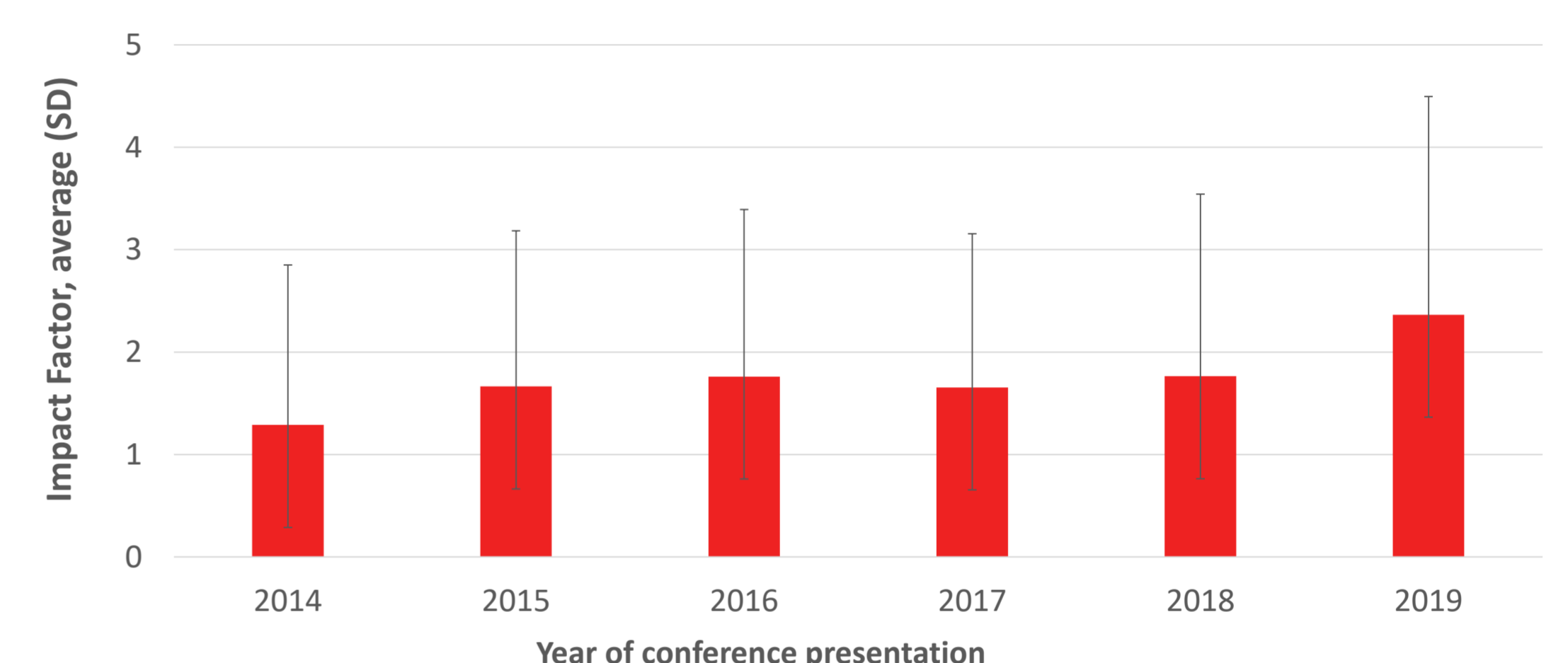
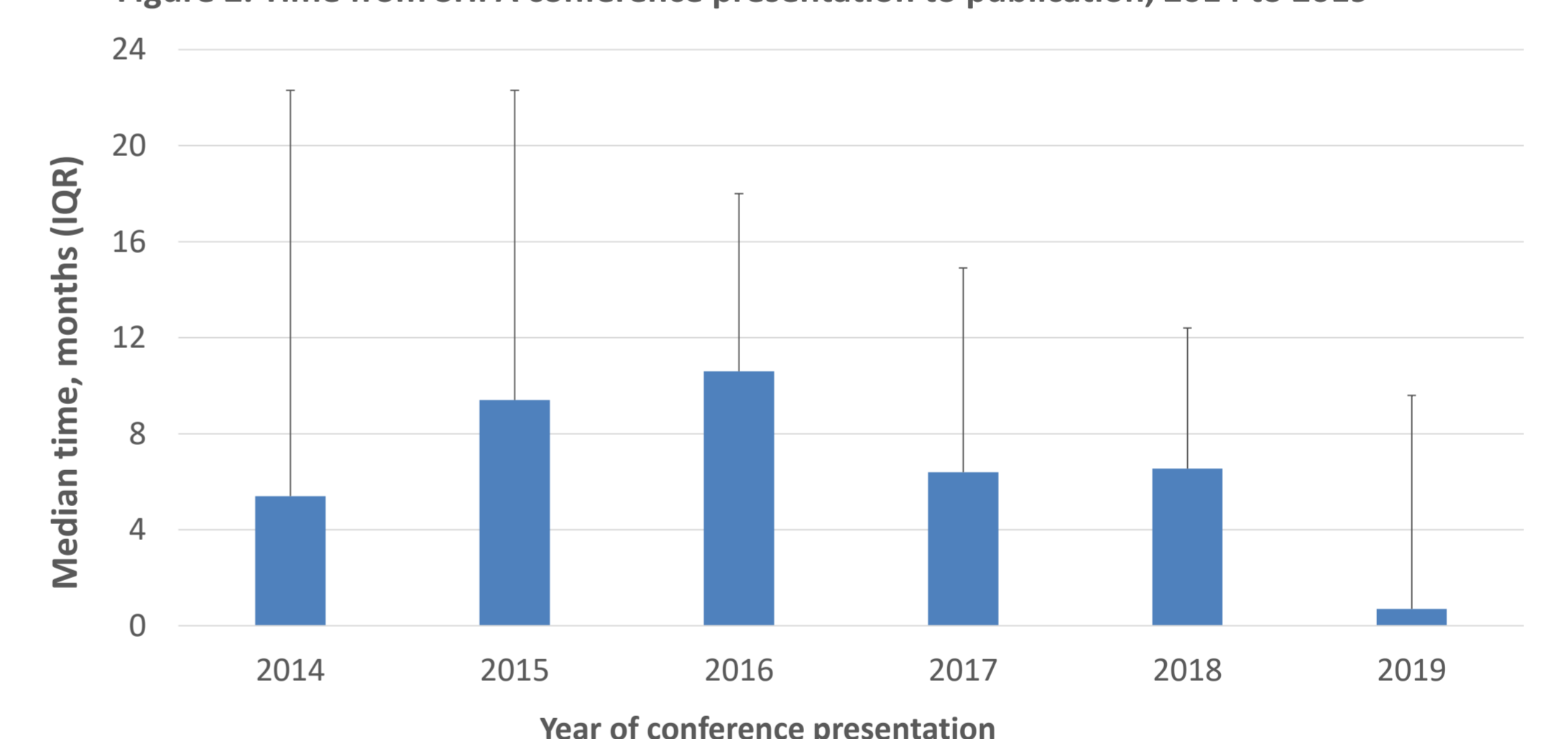


Figure 2. Time from SHPA conference presentation to publication, 2014 to 2019



Discussion

- The publication rate of abstracts presented at SHPA National Conferences between 2014-2019 was 15.9%, increasing from 11.2% in 1999.¹
- Publication rate remains low, this is possibly due to higher impact research being submitted to medical conferences prior to publication.^{2,3}
- The year 2019 had the lowest publication rate, likely due to the close proximity of the 2019 conference and the conduct of this study (Jan-Mar-2021), as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on time available for clinicians to prepare manuscripts for publication.⁴
- Publication rates of collaborative works and oral presentations were greater, likely due to collaborative works and oral presentations being of higher impact and quality.
- This study was conducted prior to completion of the first cohorts of Foundation and Advanced Training Residents. We anticipate that future years will see increased rates of publication as these programs support both conference presentation and publication of the research being conducted as components of residency programs.
- This study only assessed the publication rates of one Australian pharmacy conference and may not be indicative of other pharmacy conferences.
- This study indicates that pharmacists are engaged in the research process, but there is a current lack of progression from presented abstracts to publications.
- Health services should implement strategies to actively support their staff to progress abstracts to publication.

Conclusion

The rate of publication of research presented at SHPA National Conferences remains low. This study indicates that further efforts are required to ensure the publication of work presented at pharmacy conferences in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.

References

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